

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-19 were pending in the application, and claims 20-24 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, and 14 were rejected and claims 1, 3-11 and 13-19 were objected to. Claims 3-5 and claims 13-15 have been canceled and claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 18 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-11, and 16-19 are presently pending. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 6-11, and 16-19 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner noted that claims 5-10, and 13-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 5 and claims 13-15 have been canceled and claim 1 was amended to claim the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Similarly, claims 13-15 were canceled and claim 11 was amended to claim the allowable subject matter of claims 13-15. No new matter was added. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 6-11, and 16-19 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-19 were objected to due to typographical informalities. Accordingly, Claims 3-5 and claims 13-15 have been canceled and claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 18 have been amended. No new matter was added. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 13-19 is requested.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gill et al., US Patent No. 5,701,222, hereinafter *Gill*. Claims 3, 4, 13, and 14 have been canceled and claims 1 and 11 have been amended.

Gill discloses a magnetoresistive (MR) sensor that comprises a dual differential spin valve structure. Each of the spin valves comprise first (free) and second (pinned) layers of ferromagnetic material separated by a thin film layer of nonmagnetic material. The magnetization direction of the pinned layers of ferromagnetic material in each spin valve is fixed, and their magnetization is set antiparallel to each other.

By this amendment claim 1 was amended to claim the allowable subject matter of now canceled claim 5. Similarly, claim 11 was amended to claim the allowable subject matter of now canceled claims 13-15. No new matter was added. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 11 is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 927-3387. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0466 (Order No. SJO919990038US2).

Respectfully submitted,

By:/Jeffrey P. Aiello/
Jeffrey P. Aiello
Reg. No. 39,086
Intellectual Property Law
Systems & Technology Group
IBM
650 Harry Road
San Jose, California 95120
Telephone: (408) 927-3387

Appl. No.: 09/827,278
Amdt. Dated April 21, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 5, 2008

Facsimile: (408) 927-3375

SJO919990038US2